(Rupees Crore)

Last reporting Friday of	Net Bank credit (NBC)	Priority sector advances	% of priority sector advances to NBC
March 2000	292942.54	127807.14	43.63
March 2001	340887.93	146545.96	42.99
March 2002	396954.30	171185.26	43.12

(b) A target of 40 percent of net Bank credit has been stipulated for lending to priority sector by public sector Banks. Within this, sub-targets of 18 percent and 10 percent have been stipulated for lending to agriculture and the weaker sections respectively.

Distribution of Tista River Water

†*297. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the details of agreements reached in the meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission held recently in Dhaka regarding division of Tista river water?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): Fifth Meeting of Joint Committee of Experts of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission of sharing of Teesta waters and other common rivers between India and Bangladesh was held at Dhaka on 21st and 22nd Jan., 2003. The issues relating to (i) Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Joint Scientific Study on the availability and requirement of Teesta waters in both the countries, and (ii) Interim agreement for sharing of the Teesta waters between Bangladesh and India concurrently with the Joint Scientific Study, were discussed. Since there were difference of opinion between the two sides with regard to the above two issues, the Committee agreed to further discuss the same in its next meeting.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.